

## Innovation for Productivity and Competitiveness at IICA

One of the biggest issues derived from the analysis of the context, and which can be seen clearly in the **challenges facing agriculture, is the need to innovate**, in all aspects and at all levels of agriculture.

This includes the need to **develop new plant varieties and animal species** adapted to growing, heterogeneous and variable demands; develop and disseminate **innovative technologies** geared to the needs of businesses; **strengthen extension systems**, to make them efficient and capable of carrying the new technologies and varieties to producers, small-scale farmers in particular; **protect intellectual property**; and develop policies, strategies and new business models.

With that purpose in mind, IICA intends to support the institutional efforts of its Member States **to increase and extend innovation in agriculture**, in order to improve productivity, competitiveness and trade, and thereby support food security and the development of the member countries.

### Technical cooperation programs

We carry out our technical cooperation actions through six programs:

- Innovation for productivity and competitiveness.
- Agricultural health and food safety.
- Agribusiness and commercialization.
- Agriculture, territories and rural well-being.
- Agriculture, natural resource management and climate change.
- Agriculture and food security.

Innovation for Productivity and Competitiveness	
Line of Action	Specific Objective
Line 1: National innovation systems	To promote the strengthening of national agricultural innovation systems, by promoting improved management of the system as a whole and of everyone who participates in it, and by promoting the provision of relevant and efficient technological services.
Line 2: Agro-biotechnology and biosafety	To strengthen the development and safe use of agro-biotechnologies as a key tool for improving the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector and the sustainable use of genetic resources for agriculture and food security.
Line 2: New uses of agriculture	To promote new uses of agricultural products, compatible with food security and environmentally sustainable agriculture.
Line 4: Clean energy	To promote new uses of clean energy compatible with food security and

	environmentally sustainable agriculture.
Line 5: Regional and international cooperation for technology innovation	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of agricultural research, extension and innovation based on the system of hemispheric cooperation among countries and its relationship with international institutions of technical and scientific excellence.
Line 6: Knowledge management and ICT for innovation	To promote and strengthen knowledge management, improving and developing processes and capacities for the management, sharing and improvement of access to information for innovation, emphasizing the use of ICT tools.

**Source:** 2010-2014 Medium-Term Plan, IICA.